

a scout for the colonial forces who, while leading a small patrol of European troops, finds the dwellings of his tribal settlement raised to the ground and all the inhabitants massacred. The tribe was both peaceful and friendly towards the Europeans.

Filled with grief and anger, Te Weke feels he needs to exact Utu. Combining traditional Maori warfare with guerilla strategies that continually surprise his large and more heavily armed opponents, he becomes more and more ruthless as the European forces press him harder.

His indefensible acts which liberally predominate throughout, a feeling intensified by shrouded skies and driving rain.

Anzac Wallace, a trade union activist with a prison record is rivetting in his amazing debut performance as Te Weke and Bruno Lawrence on the pakeha (white) side in another of those disturbing characters he plays so well.

The most significant aspect of this historically accurate film is the way it does not glory in slaughter but uses it to expose the destructive aspects of the colonial past.

Utu is rated M.

Gilda Radner, Gene Wilder and Dom DeLuise

SPOOK SALUTE



The Old Dark House movie theme has been with us for years with everyone from Bob Hope to Bela Lugosi, Morcambe and Wise to Ridley Scott having a go at their interpretation of this seemingly inexhaustable subject.

The latest to catch the bug is Gene Wilder who, with his real-life wife, Gilda Radner, pulls out all stops in the slapstick comedy thriller, **Haunted Honeymoon** (RCA/Columbia/Hoyts).

The film, which Wilder also directed, was inspired by his memories of Saturday matinees, vicariously spent in smouldering mansions where elegant guests, and the occasional maniac, dressed for murder.

Recalling the days when radio was more than just an endless stream of records rolling on and off the turntable when crime thrillers like 'The Shadow' cast their hypnotic power over the minds of thousands, taking you into the scariest place on earth, your own mind, Wilder has set his story in 1939, the halycon days of radio.

He and Radner are

two engaged-to-be-married stars of a radio show, "Manhattan Mystery Theatre", a spine-tingling series of terror tales. The nuptials are set for the Abbot family manse, a vast Gothic monstrosity where Great Aunt Kate, played in an extremely amusing, over-acted performance by Dom DeLuise in drag, lives amidst howling storms, flickering candles, secret passages and deranged servants.

That's hardly the ideal place for a normal person to spend their honeymoon but Wilder's character is far from normal — he suffers from phobias, sudden outbreaks of irrational fear that threaten to ruin his career which, as you might guess, run wild when he comes under the spell of the old house.

Haunted Honeymoon will have particular appeal to lovers of old movies as it is full of gentle gestures and influences from a myriad films that have long been forgotten but affectionately brought to mind here in Wilder's salute to the haunted house genre. Rated PG.